Remarks:

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicants submit herewith under separate cover one sheet of replacement drawings to correct the reference character 13 identifying the structure adjacent to the lower electrode 12 with the reference character 14 to accurately identify the washer described at page 7, line 31. Applicants respectfully request approval of the replacement drawings.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 5,608,597 to Holmström et al.

Holmström et al. does not suggest the present invention as recited in claim 1 since, among other things, Holmström et al. does not suggest a surge arrester that includes loops having asymmetrical cross-sections. Rather, Holmström et al. suggests loops having symmetrical cross-sections; the cross-sections are square. Holmström et al. shows such a structure in Figs. 2, 6 and 8, which illustrate cross-sections of the first and second sections of the loops having square symmetrical cross-sections. On the other hand, the present invention as recited in claim 1 includes loops having asymmetrical cross-sections where a cross-section of the first strand is mirror symmetric to a cross-section of the second strand, and wherein an axis of symmetry of the cross-section of the first strand is inclined with respect to a corresponding axis of symmetry of

the cross-section of the second strand.

The shape of the loops according to the present invention help to improve the short-circuit performance of the surge arrester, provide a surge arrester having a predictable behavior in case of a breakdown, and provide a surge arrester with less variation of performance than hitherto known arresters. Holmström et al. does not suggest the features of the present invention as recited in claim 1 nor the unexpected results provided by these features. While Holmström et al. may suggest improving the short-circuit performance of a surge arrester, this problem is not mentioned in connection with the loops. Holmström et al. does not teach or suggest that the shape of the loops could be relevant for solving any of the above mentioned problems. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the shape of the loops of Holmström to solve the above mentioned problems.

A symmetrical cross-section of the loops gives the largest possible cross-section within two imaginary concentric circles at the cylindrical varistor blocks. If the loops have a symmetrical cross-section it is not possible for the loops to have an equally large cross-section and at the same time keep the outer diameter of the insulating casing as small as possible for manufacturing and economic reasons. A larger cross-sectional area gives improved mechanical performance with respect to bending strength for the arrester and at the same time provides stiffer and more robust loops in the event of a short-circuit.

Additionally, Loops having an asymmetrical cross-section provide a large contact area between the loops and the winding/bands. The large contact area is favorable for adhesion of the

winding /bands in that the winding/bands are kept on place during their molding in, for example, rubber.

In view of the above, the reference relied upon in the office action does not suggest patentable features of the present invention. Therefore, the reference relied upon in the office action does not make the present invention obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection based upon the cited reference.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicant urges the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/8/08

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